

Murd'ring Ministers

Vol. 11 No. 21

June 18, 1980



Journey to the Torpid
Tower of Terror. See pg. 3

SMTF

MURDERING MINISTERS is a gamezine brought forth (is that like regurgitated?) to your mailbox once a month by Ron Brown, 1528 El Sereno Pl., Bakersfield, CA 93304. Phone - (805) 834-8409. MM features three week deadlines so with the one week's time it takes for adjudications, typing, printing, addressing, and traveling through the mails, MM is published once a month. Subscriptions cost \$4.00/12 issues. Gamefees vary and one should check the GAME OPENINGS Section both for availability and price.

Well, it could be worse. The response to last issue was OK overall. Bruce Minsey replies to the comments on the "Black Hole Affair" in READERS' RHETORICAL REPLIES as does David Barker (one of the original players in that game). Don't worry Bruce, this is not offensive to me and I pray you were not offended by me last issue. This is just a hobby where everyone has a right to his/her own opinion and the right to publish it, (so long as it isn't just derisive name-calling). As far as I'm concerned, the "Black Hole Affair" has been resolved, the decisions made, so let's forget it and go on to other more interesting topics. However, there may be a response to the two HRR sections found in this issue (pg. 4 and pg. 9b) so this may go on for a bit. I'll expect you guys to shout "Uncle" if you feel you are getting sick of hearing about this! This is your zine, too, and I'm trying to publish things you guys (and gals) want to read about.

Hope all of you got your vote in to John Leeder for the Zine Poll. Whereas it may be most players have but little interest in polls of this nature, we publishers are most interested in seeing how you, the players and/or readers feel about our zines. So you may have just enough time if you haven't yet done so, to get a postcard to John Leeder, 121 19th Avenue, NE, Calgary, Alberta, CANADA T2E 1N9. Name the zine(s) you receive and rate them 1-10, with 1 the pits and 10 the tops. Thanks on behalf of all the pubbers in the hobby! (I think MM came in a not very impressive 23rd or so last year. I hope it didn't go down in this years' poll. Maybe I could make a slogan of that: "Keep MM the 23rd best DIPzine in America! Make that North America!")

Two plugs to give now besides the one on 9b. Are you looking for a game of DIPLOMACY? Want it right now? Dick Martin's RETALIATION has openings! Write him for a sample at 26 Orchard Way N, Rockville, MD 20854. RETALIATION is getting better with each effort. Warning though: I am waiting for a game there to start so if you are looking for ~~stiff~~ some stiff competition, sign up today!

The other announcement is that Jack Masters, 25711 No. Vista Fairways Dr., Valencia, CA 91355 has officially entered the world of publishing with his zine, BLACK FROG. He will be opening a couple of regular DIPLOMACY games and maybe a variant or so. Write to Jack for more info.

That's it for now kiddies but I'll leave with you a great little something to tell someone the next time you are playing Germany and someone takes E Denmark away from you (are you listening Jack?):

"O villain, villain, smiling, damned villain!

My tables -- meet it is I set it down,

That one may smile, and smile, and be a villain;

At least I'm sure it may be so in Denmark."

HAMLET, I, v, 123.

GAME OPENINGS

There are none.

There will be some later

THE BLOOD OF THE LIVING
(a PDS adventure)
by
Ron Brown

((Don't Iron #20))

Our four sturdy adventurers wound their way down the ancient spiral staircase. After what seemed a long time, they emerged into the dark gloom of the underground catacombs. Their torchlight reflected fitfully off the damp walls of the passageway that led on before them. The mage Kosgriff, said, "Let's go." So they did with Filler the Minstrel leading the way.

However, before they had advanced very far an apparition suddenly materialized before them! A skeletal figure stood not more than ten feet before them. Before the party could recover from the unexpected appearance of this ghostly shade, it announced, "Good! I haven't seen any visitors in 75 years or so. I hope you like it here because, my you know, no one ever leaves! HaHaHa..." and it vanished as suddenly as it appeared. Undaunted our fearless group continued on. Soon they came to a fork in the passage. It was the Priest, Perry who first noticed the left passage had on its floor a luminescent green arrow painted on it. The group after a brief discussion decided the arrow must be there for a reason and followed it. The passageway they now traversed began to slant even more to the left and our crew soon came to a three-way intersection with a door on the left. Al the Warrior kicked open the door and our party fearlessly entered the room, ready for anything. What they found, though, was a 30ft sq. f room with purple curtains lining the walls on three sides and a finely detailed statue of a mage in one corner. After playing around with the statue for a few minutes and discovering it was made of solid stone, Kosgriff ripped down the curtain along one wall and set it on fire. After the room became smoky the group decided there wasn't anything exceptional about the room and left.

After travelling down the right-hand passageway from the door (not the same one they just walked down) the party came to a 4-way intersection. The right hallway was filled with smoke and the group saw a grate high along the wall that the smoke was issuing from. Thinking that perhaps this was from a room with a fireplace around the other side, they traveled back up the hall to seek this place.

While traveling this corridor, they stopped where they saw a room on the left side of the ~~pass~~ passage with its door totally destroyed. This was too intriguing to ignore so they decided to enter and check it out. They were somewhat puzzled when they found a large room with many rows of tables containing mushrooms. A sort of hydroponic garden it seemed to be. Perry grabbed a few and stuffed them in his pouch and the group decided to leave.

As they stepped out the door, they noticed another green arrow leading down a previously ~~was~~ unnoticed corridor to the left. They decided, however, to try the hall the right and see where that smoke had come from. They were glad that so far the place had seemed pretty quiet and deserted. A little ways down the hall they came to yet another branch. But just ahead there were two doors; one on each side of the hall. They forced one door and found the stinking, rotting bodies of half a dozen little goblins. There wasn't anything else of value and a check for any secret doors revealed nothing. So it was off to check the other door. Inside they found a fireplace, a table and chairs, and in one corner, a pole of brass leading into a hole below. It was down the pole to see what was down below.

((TO BE CONTINUED))

READERS' RHETORICAL RESPONSES

((The opinions printed here are of the individual writers and in no way represent the views of the publisher of MURDERING MINISTERS))

((from Bruce Linsey, publisher of VOICE OF DOOM))

Dear Mister Minister:

I read with interest your comments on the "Black Hole Affair" last issue. Since you invited me to reply, why not? I won't bore your readers by rehashing the circumstances involved over and over again, but will discuss in more general terms the topics involved: houserules in general, and deception of the GM.

Before I do that, though, I had better clear up some misunderstandings. First of all, you erred in stating that Mark Berch has labeled John Caruso "unprincipled." Mark never said that, and in fact he corrected me on it. Further, I was very wrong in doing so. By the time you print this, I will have publicly apologized for and retracted the statement, and I've asked Konrad Baumeister to do the same. In fact, as this is being written, there are no hard feelings whatsoever between Kathy Byrne and John Caruso, and me. Tempers flared for a couple of weeks, but Kathy and John are my friends, and we have made peace. In fact, both of them have since decided to standby in VOICE OF DOOM, and I'm happy to have them on my standby list. The situation has been happily resolved.

Now, let's look at houserules in general. What are they? (This could actually be the start of a good article, but . . .) Well, if you look in the rulebook, you will find many situations that just are not adequately covered for postal play. The most outstanding example of this is the 15 minute deadlines, which clearly needs modification when the game is played by mail, unless, of course, John Michalski is GMing the game. But there are scores of modifications that must be made to the rulebook, especially when you consider standbys, ambiguous abbreviations, separations of seasons, etc. Houserules, then, are merely an adoption of the rulebook which enables the game to be played postally.

Now, you may say that situations found in postal DIP can be dealt with when they arise, but I would not agree. I feel that the players have the right to know just how their game will be run when they enter it. If a VOD player wants to see just how I will handle a given situation, most of the time he can just thumb through the houserules and find out. It is true that houserules are tedious, but nobody has to read them. They are there for the players' reference, and I myself have referred to them in GMing my games if I wanted to know exactly how I said I would rule in a particular set of circumstances. I personally would not want to play in a game if the rules were not set forth beforehand, nor would I care to GM a game that way. It is for that reason that I believe in using a good, complete set of houserules.

Having defended my usage of such of a comprehensive collection of rules, let me now address the next question: How strictly should I enforce them? Well, Ron, they are the rules of play. I certainly didn't put them there for my readers' amusement! To digress for a minute, do you remember when I criticized you for accepting orders after the deadline? I don't know how clear I made it then, but my objection was not that you were doing it, but that you were doing it despite your houserule that told us, "deadlines will be strictly enforced"! Now, in this instance I had little quarrel with the way you were running the game, but I did object to the fact that your houserules claimed you would be running it differently than you actually were! Anyway, the point is that rules are there to be played by, or they wouldn't

((Don't pg. 11))

THE GAMES!!

1978II WINTER 1908 DRAW AND CONCESSIONS FAIL!

Austria- No Adj Italy- No Adj
England- F Tys-r-TUS, Declines build Turkey- No Adj
Germany- Builds A MUN

1978II SPRING 1909 RESISTANCE TO THE JUGGERNAUT BENDS--BUT WILL IT BREAK?

Austria (Kelly): A Gal-s-A Vie/a/; A VIE-s-A Gal; A BUD-s-A Vie.
England (Michalaki): F ROM-Nap; F Tus-TYR; F WES-s-F Tus-Tyr; F TUN-s-F Tus-TYK;
F LYO-g-German A Mar-Tus; A NAF-s-F Tun; F Eng-MID; F Mid-NAT;
A Liv-MOS; A STP-s-A Liv-Mos.
Germany (Pilant): A Mos-Ukr/a/; A War-GAL; A SIL-s-A War-Gal; A BOH-s-A War-Gal;
A TYA-Vie; A Pru-WAR; A MUN-H; A Mar-TUS; A PIE-s-A Mar-Tus.
Italy (Martin): NMR; F NAP-H; A VEN-H; F TRI-H.
Turkey (Rodrigues): A UKR-s-Austrian A Gal; A RUM-s-Austrian A Gal; A SEV-s-A Ukr;
F APV-Ven; F ION-Tun; F ADR-Ion; F Tys-Tus/a/.

Fall 1909 due 7/18/80.

1978II Press-

ANKARA-JUGGERNAUT: Coin flip, huh? I guess we should call this game irregular. It's more along the lines of a variant. Call it "Oklahoma Diplomacy". Is that how all you folks in Oklahoma make all your decisions, by flipping coins? Regardless, good luck on the flip, Dave.

1979 AI SEASONS SEPARATE PER PLAYERS' REQUEST

WINTER 1906

Austria- No Adj Italy- A Tri-r-TYA, F Tys-r-NAP
England- Builds F LON, A LPL Russia- A Ber-r-PRU, Builds A WAR, A MOS, F STP(ss)
France- Disbands F Bre, A Pie

Spring 1907 due 7/18/80 with votes on the following proposals:

There are calls for- A Concession to England
A E-R Draw
A R-I-E Draw

Must be unanimous to pass. No vote received will automatically count as a "Yes" vote.

1979AI Press-

MOSCOW: I want Brest. That was part of our original deal.

FRANCE-WORLD: Personally, I think both Russia and England voted down the last draw. This remnant of France will again vote for the draw. If it doesn't pass will someone please eliminate me soon?

BUDAPEST: Please help the Austrians regain their dominant position in this game.

COA: Bob Arnett, 1500 Waterway Circle, Chesapeake, VA 23320.

1979C SEASONS SEPARATE*

WINTER 1907

England- Builds F LON Italy- Builds A VEN
France- No Adj Russia- Builds A SEV, A MOS
Germany- No Adj

There is a call for a E-G-I-R draw. Must be unanimous to carry. A No Vote Received will automatically be counted a "Yes" vote. Spring 1908 and votes due 7/18/80.

*Please note a COA for Jim Bumpas, 3209 Chambers St., Eugene, OR 97405. Because of his move, Jim did not receive MM #20 until quite late, therefore the separated seasons.

1979CW WINTER 1905

England- NBR- plays one short

France- Builds F BRE

Germany- Disbands F Ska

Italy- Builds F NAP

Russia- No Adj

Turkey- Builds A CON, F SBY

1979CW SPRING 1906 FROGS ENTER LIVERPOOL AND LONDON! WHERE IS BRITISH ADMIRAL?

England (Hawkins): NMR! F BAR-H; F Nwy-H/d/-r-Ska, Nwg, OTB; F Nth-H/d/-r-Edi,
Yor, Nwg, Ska, Hel, OTB.

France (Lee): A Wal-LPL; F Eng-LON; F Bre-ENG; F Bel-NTH; F HOL-s-F Bel-Nth;
A RUH-s-F Hol; A BUR-s-A Ruh.

Germany (Barker): F DEN-s-A Kie; A KIE-s-F Den; A BER-s-A Kie; A A Mun-TYA.

Italy (Williams): A VEN-Tri; A Tri-ALB; F Ion-AEG; F GRE-s-F Ion-Aeg; F Nap-ION;
A Boh-GAL.

Russia (Hachnel): A StP-NWY; A FIN-s-A StP-Nwy; F SWE-s-A StP-Nwy; F Bot-STP(s);
A VIE-s-Italian A Boh-Gal.

Turkey (Schilling): F Smy-EAS; F Aeg-s-F Smy-Eas/d/-r-Con, Smy, OTB; A Con-BUL;
F BLA-s-A Con-Bul; F SEV-H; A Ser-TRI; A BUD-s-A Ser-Tri;
A Rum-UKR.

Fall 1906 due 7/18/80.

Would John Caruso, 42-34 Saull St, Flushing, NY 11355 please submit standby orders
for England?

1979CW Press-

BERLIN-LONDON: Don't worry, my friend, that French Army in Wales is there to protect
you from us, as I'm sure you've been told.

MOSCOW: The Czar wishes to clarify the earlier inaccurate reports about the summit
meeting in Vienna. Count Von Dork, suffering from a severe myopic disorder, (His
head is up his ass to the ears) was unable to see what was going on. The Czar was
not in a highchair, but on a throne. Furthermore, he was not drooling but crying from
laughter at the Count's ridiculous ideas.

ROME: Pope George Ringo's (Imbecilic) Rhyme of the Month:

There are times when one falls for a trap,

And ends up feeling quite like a sap

It's not fun being had

But overall it's not bad

For a game being played on a map.

Thus quoth the Pope.

GERMANY-FRANCE: Thanks for the support. Next time I won't attack you, drinks on me.

ROME-SWITZERLAND: Gary, if I have to join you there, will you save another Persian
Rug for me? That last one was so delicious.

ROME-ANKARA: Sorry again, Ben. France is too far away to send all my troops
while leaving my back door open against your ever growing power.

MUNICH-ROME: You really think you're hot stuff, don't you, you pea green putrid,
pusillanous, perfidious, pompous person.

1979AN WINTER 1906

Austria- Builds A VIE, A BUD, F TRI

England- No Adj

France- No Adj

Germany- A StP-r-OTB, A Mun-r-RUH, A Nwy-r-OTB,
Build A BER

Italy- NRR- GM Disbands F Tun

Turkey- No Adj

1979AN Con't next pg.

1979AN Con't

1979AN SPRING 1907 POPE FLEES AS TURKS SMASH THE GATES OF ROME?

Austria (Carson): A APU-s-Turkish A Ven-Rom; F NAP-Ion; F Tri-ALB; A Bud-TRI;
A VIE-s-A Bud-Tri; A Bul-CON; A SEV-H; A UKR-s-A War; A BOH-Sil;
A WAR-s-A Boh-Sil; A MUN-H; A TYA-s-A Mun; A MAR-Spa.
England (Haffey): F ENG-Mid; A Lpl-WAL; F NWY-Nth; F Bar-NWG; A StP-LIV; A MOS-War.
France (Palter): F MID-Spa(so); A BUR-Mar; A Par-PIC.
Germany (Sulsberger): A KIE-Mun; A RUH-s-A Kie-Mun; A BEL-s-A Ruh; A Ber-SIL; A PRU-s-
A Ber-Sil; F Edi-CLY; F NTH-Eng.
Italy (Crockett)*: NMR! A TUS-H; F Rom-H/d/-r-Tys,OTB;
Turkey (Masters): A Ven-ROM; F ADR-Ion.

Fall 1907 due 7/18/80. There is a proposal for a concession to Austria. Must be unanimous to pass; No vote counts as "yes" vote.

*Would Dave Grabar please send standby orders for Italy? 1583 Truman, Chowchilla, CA 93610.

1979AN Press-

BERLIN: Funny what 14 centers will do to people.
LONDON-VIENNA: Sorry, but your double cross on WAR was dirty. Anyway, you got too big too fast and now we must try and stop you if we can.
VIENNA: Being an emperor of his word, his Majesty has ordered the withdrawal of Austrian forces from Marseilles, is completing the subjugation of Italy, has kept Warsaw in safe-keeping for the English and has made no further territorial demands on Germany this season. Also a new home in Spain is being made ready for those die-hard Turks. Now, is everybody happy? No? Well, send in your Christmas lists and we'll see what we can do.
BERLIN-ROME: Hang on Dave here comes the cavalry!
BERLIN-LONDON: We are coming, aren't we?
VIENNA-LONDON: Good show old boy. Let's keep squeezing that German lemon, he hasn't squeaked yet.
LONDON-BOARD: Stop the red flood.

1979HN SUMMER 1905 - French F Eng-r-BRE

1979HN FALL 1905 MASSIVE NAVAL DEADLOCK BETWEEN FRANCE AND ENGLAND CONTINUES!

England (Carmody): F LON-Eng; F Eng-IRI; F WAL-Lpl; F CLY-s-F Wal-Lpl; A MOS-Sev.
France (Hartman): F NAT-s-F Lpl; F LPL-s-F NAT; F Pic-ENG; F BRE-s-F Pic-Eng;
F MID-s-F Pic-Eng; A BEL-s-A Bur; A BUR-s-A Bel.
Germany (Masters): F Ska-NTH; F Bal-SWE; A HOL-Ruh; A MUN-Ruh; A Sil-WAR; A LIV-s-
A Sil-War; A Gal-RUM; A BUD-s-A Gal-Rum; A Ser-BUL.
Italy (Shelton): A Tri-SER; A Vie-TRI; A ALB-s-A Tri-Ser; F GRE-s-German A Ser-Bul;
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ F ION-Aeg; F ADR-Ion;
Turkey (Howard): A Con-ANK; A Run-Ser/s/; F Bul(so)-Run/s/; F AEG-Bul(so).
Winter 1905 AND Spring 1906 due 7/18/80.

1905 SUPPLY CENTER CHART

England- Lon,Edi,Mos,Nwy,StP.....	(5)	0
France- Home,Bel,Por,Spa,Lpl.....	(7)	0
Germany- Home,Den,Hol,War,Swe,Bud,Rum,BUL.....	(10)	+1
Italy- Home,Tri,Tun,Vie,GRE,SER.....	(8)	+2
Turkey- Home,Edi,StP,OTB,Sev.....	(4)	+2 (is playing two short)

1979HN Press-

TURKEY-GERMANY & ITALY: I can't believe that all of this is simply because you don't like Turkish coffee.

1979CF SUMMER 1906 - English F Lon-r-WAL

1979CF FALL 1906 GERMANY NETS FOUR CENTERS WHILE THE POPE GRABS THREE!

Austria (Paltar): A Vie-TYA; A Gal-BOH; A Bud-GAL; A Ser-BUD; F BUL(ac)-s-Italian
A Gre-Con; A Rum-s-F Bul(ac)/d/-r-Ser,OTB.

England (Haffey): F Wal-IRI; A YOR-Edi; F STP(nc)-H.

Germany (Linsey): A LPL-Yor; A LON-Yor; F Eng-WAL; F SWE-H; A SIL-s-A War; A LIV-MOS;
A WAR-s-A Liv-Mos; A Pru-LIV; F NTH-Edi.

Italy (Hefti): A Gre-CON; F AEG-c-A Gre-Con; F Eas-SMY; A Nap-BRE; F MID, F WES,
& F XIX TYS-c-A Nap-Bre; A Pie-MAR.

Russia (Manser): A Mos-StP/d/-r-Sev,OTB; F Sev-RUM; A UKR-s-F Sev-Rum.

Turkey (Tucker): F Con-H/d/-r-Ank,OTB; F BLA-H; A ARM-H.

Winter 1906 AND Spring 1907 due 7/18/80.

1979CF 1906 SUPPLY CENTER CHART

Austria- Home, Ser, Yor , Bul.....	(5)	-1	
England- Wal , Yor , Nwy, StP.....	(2)	-1	
Germany- Home, Hol, Den, Bel, Par, Yor , Edi, WAR, MOS, SWE, LON, LPL.....	(13)	+4	can build 3
Italy- Home, Mar, Tun, Spa, Por, Gre, SMY, CON, BRE.....	(11)	+3	
Russia- Mos , Yor , Sev, StP , RUM.....	(2)	-1	
Turkey- Con , H , Ank.....	(1)	-2	

1979CF Press-

KING OF ENGLAND-KAISER OF GERMANY: Cousin, how could you? If you defeat England I hope you take Ireland as well, you will deserve it. It's the wee little ones that'll get you.

RUSSIA-THE WORLD: Someone please call the Red Cross. I'm bleeding!!!

RUSSIA-GERMANY: Would it do any good asking you to mow the lawn while you're in my front yard?

1979HO WINTER 1903

Austria- F Gre-r-ALB

England- Builds F EDI, A LON

France- Builds F BRE, F MAR

Germany- A Hol-r-OTB, A Kie-r-OTB, Disbands A Pru

Italy- Disbands A Rom

Russia- No Adj

Turkey- No Adj

1979HO SPRING 1904 FRANCE HITS BRITAIN AS ENGLISH UNLEASH SCANDINAVIAN OFFENSIVE!

Austria (Tucker): A Tus-ROM; A VEN-s-A Tus-Rom; A Tya-TRI; A Bul-SER; A BUD-s-
A Bul-Ser; F ALB-s-French F Tun-Ion.

England (Staley)*: F Nwg-BAR; F Nth-NWY; F Edi-NTH; F DEN-Swe; F KIE-Ber; A HOL-H;
A LON-YOR.

France (Williams): F Tun-ION; F Mar-LYO; A Pie-MAR; A Pie-BEL; A Bur-RUH; A MUN-s-
A Bur-Ruh; F Bre-ENG; F Mid-IRI.

Italy (Barker): A APU-Gre; F Ion-c-A Apu-Gre/d/-r-Adr, Tya, Eas, OTB.

Russia (Coughlan): A Rum-GAL; A WAR-s-A Rum-Gal; F Sev-RUM; A UKR-s-F Sev-Rum;
A MOS-H; F SWE-Bal.

Cope! Germany (Haffey): F BAL-Ber.

Turkey (Kuszyński): A GRE-Ser; A Con-BUL; F BIA-s-A Con-Bul; F AEG-s-Italian A Apu-Gre.

Fall 1905 due 7/18/80.

COA: *Darrell Staley, 1623 Derby St., Berkeley, CA 94703.

1979HO Press-

PARIS-SWITZERLAND: Gee, Joel, I didn't know you were that afraid of storms. Your troops will never forgive you, neither will your allies.

ST. PETERSBURG: The Tsar expressed himself so amazed at the extent of both France's and England's "unselfishness" toward their neighbors that he has temporarily ordered all telephone atrocity stories concerning Turkey to cease.

(More press next pg.)

1979RO Press (Con't)

LONDON: The Royal Minister of War has moved to a new estate. Please send any future correspondence to 1628 Derby St., Berkeley, CA 94703.

THE MEDITERRANEAN: The French National Weather Service reports that the tempest has now swept westward, compliments from the Hoppic Queen. The French Foreign Minister was reported to have said that it was the best blow he had ever had.

RUSSIA-ENGLAND: About your last press on Norway. Talking to me? Are you talking to me? Are YOU talking to ME? Well, I'm the only one here. So, you must be talking to me. Now how about writing?

PARIS-LONDON: You were probably expecting this and I just didn't want to disappoint you.

RUSSIA-ITALY: Do you ever feel like little David against two big Goliaths? You are a superb opponent, a diehard, fight-to-the-last, give-it-all-you-got fighter. Perhaps the new Kaiser will have some of your class.

RUSSIA-THE NEW KAISER: Ich bin ein Berliner, mein Freund und Bundesgenosse.

RUSSIA-AUSTRIA AND TURKEY: Maybe you two could get joint custody of Bulgaria. I'm getting dizzy watching it change hands.

PARIS-VIENNA: Are you still there Hoppic Queen?

RUSSIA-OLD KAISER: You shouldn'tna, hadn'tna, oughtna!!

* * * * *
SUB-2 TURN 3

Player: _____ Nationality: _____

Your subs/ships are presently located at:

Enemy Craft sighted:

Description:

Turn 4 due
7/18
7/18/00

((? Well, I did it again. I thought I had everything ready to go and I find a misplaced page (no.9)! So, here's what I'm gonna do: Three page 9's. Logical, huh? Page 9a is the original pg. 9 and must be first since it has the remainder of 1979HO Press on it. The first pg. of TZ will be 9c since 10 must follow it. That leaves this page, pg. 9b and I need something to fill it with. So I will try and fit Dave Barker's letter here that on the last page says next issue.))

RRR

((From Dave Barker))

Dear Ron,

I feel that I must respond to your comments concerning the "Black Hole Affair". It should be obvious that Bruce Linsey would not kick someone out of his zine on trumped up charges and merely for vengeance, of course he must have had legitimate reasons for kicking McKibben out, for Bruce Linsey is a just and honorable man.

It's not likely that Bruce Linsey would overreact to an admittedly minor occurrence, especially when all that would have been necessary to settle the matter would have been reasonable explanations and apologies from both sides. I'm confident that Bruce Linsey did not overreact, for Bruce Linsey is a just and honorable man.

Although Bruce Linsey has admitted privately that he didn't have grounds or enough proof to kick McKibben out, I am sure that he was justified in doing so, for Bruce Linsey is a just and honorable man.

I also doubt that Bruce Linsey kicked Kathy Byrne off his standby list simply because she disagreed with his handling of the Black Hole matter. He must have had a legitimate reason, for Bruce Linsey is a just and honorable man.

Furthermore, I just can't believe that Bruce Linsey has written to people playing in games with Kathy Byrne and warning them of Byrne's "character". Everyone should know that disagreeing with a GM is a sin, especially a GM like Bruce Linsey. Besides, Bruce Linsey is a just and honorable man.

Bruce Linsey could not have faked WHITESTONIA, published by John Caruso, and done so simply to discredit the two key witnesses to his unethical behavior, David Barker and Kathy Byrne, for Bruce Linsey is a just and honorable man.

And lastly, Bruce Linsey must be right in saying that John Caruso is an unprincipled GM, for Bruce Linsey is always right and also because Mark Borch agrees with him, and Mark Borch is very, very smart. In conclusion, we must all agree that Bruce Linsey is completely justified in all he has said and done, for Bruce Linsey is a just and honorable man.

Sincerely,

David M. Barker

((Whew! I wonder what kind of reaction this will get! Read the next HM and find out!))

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PLUG! PLUG! PLUG! PLUG!

Mark Borch, 492 Naylor Place, Alexandria, VA 22304, has published "The Lexicon of DIPLOMACY" in his zine DIPLOMACY DIGEST. What is it, you ask? Well, a lexicon is a book containing an alphabetical arrangement of the words in a language and their definitions. So if you've seen such terms as "Superpower Opening", "Syrian Opening", etc. and not known what was being referred to, get the lexicon and find out. I'm sending off for mine as this appears to be a great aid for the novice and expert alike (I consider myself the former!). Write to Mark for the details or just send him \$1.25 and you'll get yours! The lexicon that is!

W T T L E F T
 Z I N E

9c

Hope you all are off to a fun summer. Alfredo teaches seventh grade from September through early June. For those curious ones out there in diplomacy-land. I teach a world history and geography class; as you can tell from my syntax, grammar, spelling and predicate nomenclatures(?) the English teacher winces when she sees me. This summer I am checking cotton fields and alfalfa for nasty insects. My diplomacy time is greatly curtailed, not because I work so hard, because I am so busy relaxing and enjoying myself. PBM games go on the back burner and I am quite sure allies in my games start to lose their patience with me. Then there is the added responsibility of taking care of this. How did I ever let Ron ever talk me into helping him? Thank God for my beautiful, and very capable typist Mona. Was that good enough Mona? The games.....

1980 AS

WINTER 01

BLACK SEA SHIPYARDS WORK OVERTIME, POPE MATTHEW CONTINUES TO NEEDLE OUR BELOVED SAINT.

Austria (David Wildman-COA): A Bud

England (Charles Miller): F Lon

France (David Grabar): even

Germany (Mark Kraft): A Ber, A Mun

Italy (Matt McKibbin): F Nap

Russia (Jeff Albrecht): F Sev, A Mos

Turkey (Jerome Dunn): F Ank, A Smy

COA: David Wildman, 25 Daly Cross Rd, Mt. Kisco, N.Y. 10549

IRESS:

Ger-Aus, C'mon, drop me a line.

Ger-World, I dedicate this game to Dwane M. Linstrom. A great player of Diplomacy, a good friend.

London-Paris, You never were in the "English Sea", so you had nothing to "order out". OFFENDED of course not. Have you ever heard of Crécy, Poitiers, and Aquincourt?

London to world: Does everyone like French Fried(sic) and frog legs?

Pope Matthew to the Vatican cleaning staff:

When cleaning out the papal bed chambers, please do not forget to remove the jackboots, cat o' nine tail and the collection of Hustler magazine left in the closet by predecessor "the saint". Such temptations are not needed. It is a wonder that he ever made saint.

The Italian General Staff to the French Admiralty:

Why so sudden a change?

Pope Matthew to St. Alfredo-Alfredo:

What is the Perpetual Sacred League of St. Alfredo-Alfredo for and what are the patron saint of? The hopelessly undiplomatic?

(THE FIELD) St Alfredo-Alfredo to young blasphemous Pope Matthew: Mine son yours truly did indeed have faults while on carnal Earth. Mother Church saw fit to grant me sainthood for my many deeds of charity and compassion. Purity has not ever been one of my virtues. Before I forget have the chamber maid, clean under the bed too; you'll be interested to see what is there. By the way, Fifi give very relaxing massages...you know what I mean!

THE FIELD: I hope you guys take a close look at the house rules found in MM this issue. Believe it or not Ron and I even argued about them. Spring 1902 orders are due July 18th by 1:00 PM.

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TZ #2-1980CT

Fall 01

(When will this game get a headline?)

Austria(Rick Ragsdale): A BUD-Rum, A Ser-BUL, F Alb-GRE

England(George Cunningham-COA): F Lon-ENG, A Yor-NWY, F NTH-C-A Yor-NWY

France(David Parlatutter): F Bro-LND, A BUR-Bel, A Mar-SIA

Germany(Jim Chatfield): F Den-SWE, A RUH-Bel, A Kie-HOL

Italy(Al Giddings): A TRI-H, A Apu-TUN, FION-C-A Apu-TUN

Russia(John Lesch): A Stp-FIN, F Bot-BAL, A UKR-Sev

F Bla-S-AUS. A Ser-BUL

Turkey(Rod Fielding): A ARM-Sev, F CON-Bul, A Bul-Rum /a/

SUPPLY CENTER CHART 1901

Austria: Ven, Bud, Bul, Gre-build one

England: Home, Nwy-build one

France: Home, Spa-build one

Germany: Home, Swe, Hol-build two

Italy: Home, Tri, Tun-build two

Russia: Home-Even

Turkey: Home, one unit/a/-build one

Press:

Paris-England OK, anybody who has a WATTS line is a great ally, right? right?

Paris-Herr Doktor Giddings -Here's the deal, you give me Rome, Venice, Tunis and Naples, and I won't sue you for malpractice. OK?

Paris-Berlin Rummer about your alliance with me were greatly exaggerated.

Paris-The Field Hey Alfie-baby where did you pick up these dips, I'll be in Smyrna by Fall '04.

THE FIELD: Davie-Baby bet you two-to-one you don't get to Bel by 05.

ROME: King Alfredo VII today in a statement to Europe let it be known that any nation at war with France should consider itself also at war with Italy. Three hours later, following a closed door session with the members of the Kings court, King Alfredo retracted his statement. It appears the King had forgotten Italy was at war with Austria and meant to say: "Any nation allied with Austria should consider itself at war with Italy."

Vatican CITY: Pope Boniface XXIII apologized for the King's spaghetti logic but also condemned the barbarous Austrians and Russians for their rape and pillage on the Turkish nation. When informed that the Russians and Austrians had not yet actually attacked Turkey proper during the Spring of 1901, Pope Boniface stoically replied: "Never mind".

NOTE THE FOLLOWING COA

London-World: George Cunningham announces that he has moved. His new address is: 56 Isham St. Burlington, Vt. 05401

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TZ 3-1980 CU

SPRING 01

KUSZYNSKI MAKES THREE FRIENDS! WILL HIS FRIENDS LEAVE HIM IN STITCHES?

Austria(Ralph McKnight): A Vie-GAL, A Bud-SER, F Tri-ALb

England(Donald Swartz-COA): F Lon-ENG, F Edi-NTH, A Lvp-WAL

France(Dan Kuszyński): F Bre-MID, A Mar-SPA, A PAR-Bur

Germany(Anthony Stark): A MUN-Bur, A Ber-KIE, FKie-DEN

Italy(Paul Goodrich COA): A Ven-PIE, A Rom-VEN, F Nap-TYS

Russia(Hector Roybal): F Stp-BOT, A War-UKR, F Sev-RUM, A Mos-SEV

Turkey(James Dunn): F Ank-BLA, A Con-BUL, A Smy-CON

COA Paul Goodrich 301 Crestmont Drive, San Francisco, CA 94131

Donald Swartz (after July 4), 2549 Glenmary Ave #2, Louisville KY 40204

PRESS:

Munich: The kaiser, Anthony I, takes charge of the war effort today. In his own inimitable manner, he said: "Thanks loads."

THE FIELD: So far two players have said they would like to play this game without standbys. Alright somebody agrees with me for once! Please let me know if you object. Fall 1901 due July 18 at 1:00PM

Twilight Zine is brought to you by Alfred R Rodriguez, 2613 South Eye St., Bakersfield, CA. 93304, Phone (805) 3246820. Have to stop now. Ron and Mona are pissed at me for running over two pages. Not really I have just run out of time to type more stuff. What follows is MURD"RING MINISTERS...

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RRR ((Con't from pg. 4))

be there at all. If a GM wants to strictly enforce a deadline, he should make a rule that says so; and if he does not, he should not make such a rule. Similarly, if a GM wants to ban deception of himself by the players, he should so state; otherwise, he should not so state.

Which, at last, brings me to my ~~final~~ final point. Did I "overreact" in removing a player who lied to me? Well, I put that rule in there for a reason. I didn't write it just so it would take up space in the zine! I wrote it because I felt it should be obeyed. (Otherwise, why have it there at all?) And although I was disappointed to have to enforce it, the situation came up and there it was in black and white.

Now, when a player signs up in VOICE OF DOOM, I do my best to ensure that he is given a well-run game. Although at times I may make a mistake like any other GM, I consider well-run to include all of the following:

- 1) The adjudications are accurate.
- 2) The game reports are sent out promptly.
- 3) The game is run according to the rules in force.

On points 1 & 2, my record is reasonable good.

On the third point, it is also good, and I can make that claim because I enforced a rule when a player directly and overtly violated it.

Now, I am aware of the opinions of several of the current and former BLACK HOLE players (and some other people) that I "overreacted". They are entitled to their opinion, but when it comes down to the crunch, what kind of a GM so players ~~act~~? One who will take action (albeit unpopular) to make sure the game is played by the rules, or one who will decide to look the other way when his rules ~~are~~ being violated?

((Con't next pg.))

(((Don't)))

... whichever way you like it, I know where I stand!
Well, I hope I've convinced you, I've certainly convinced me.

Bruce

P.S.

Anybody who thinks I'm to the right of Darth Vader ought to read my BRUX SPEAKS article in VOD #5! Also -- you're wrong in claiming that I can throw out a player for saying it's Friday when it's Saturday. This would not be deceiving me in my function as the GM.

P.P.S.

I see elsewhere in the zine that you have quoted me as saying that John Caruso is an unprincipled GM. That is not what I said, and my reasons for comments I made are not the ones you gave. However, the point is moot because I no longer think John is unprincipled, as I've mentioned above. But on sensitive matters like this, please be careful about quoting people correctly.

((First of all, thanks for taking the time to state your opinions, Bruce. I'm sure most will find it interesting reading and it certainly does make your opinion on house rule interpretations quite clear. I looked through MM #20 though and couldn't find where I quoted you as you stated above. I think it was more implied. I am very careful when I quote someone, though, so don't worry. Also, regarding your reference to my "accepting orders after the deadline" -- As I explained my position to you at the time, deadlines have been strictly enforced in the past. But up till now I have reasoned that if I hadn't yet adjudicated the game and someone's orders arrived a day late, then I would go ahead and use that player's orders. Why not? It hasn't caused me any hassle and it keeps that game from being sucked up because of a lousy NMR. If, however, the order came in after the deadline and that game had already been adjudicated, then the guy is SOL. Anyone else out there willing to state a quick opinion on this? But since we are talking about house rules in this discussion, make sure you see the revised MM Houserules in the next MM.))

I'm afraid that I'm out of time and room for any more right now. The revised Houserules (see above) will be in the next issue as will letters from Gary Coughlan, David Barker, maybe more, the latest MM Percentile Rankings, and more! Until then . . .

Would you please standby in _____ on pg. _____?

Your sub expires with Issue# _____

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